

2. (Twice Amended) A method of increasing the reaction rate of an organic synthesis reaction that proceeds using OH^- , which comprises performing the organic synthesis reaction in the absence of catalyst without addition of any basic catalyst in supercritical water or subcritical water of at least 350°C with a reaction time of 10-400 seconds, utilizing a supply of OH^- from said water.

Please add new Claims 19-20 as follows:

--19. (New) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the alcohol is benzyl alcohol, the carboxylic acid is benzoic acid, and the aldehyde is benzaldehyde.

20. (New) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the alcohol is benzyl alcohol, the carboxylic acid is benzoic acid, and the aldehyde is benzaldehyde.--

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends Claims 1 and 2; and adds new Claims 19-20. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for the recitation of a "reaction time of 10-400 seconds" is found in the specification at least at page 20, line 23. Support for new Claims 19-20 is found in the specification at least at page 14, "Scheme 1". No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-20 will be pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 are independent.